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TWELVE PAGES — TWO RIYALS



U.S. SECRETARIES: Six new appointees to President-elect Ronald Reagan's cabinet appear at a news conference in Washington Monday. They are from left to right: Gen. Alexander Haig, secretary of state; James Watt, secretary of interior; Samuel Pierce Jr., secretary of housing and urban development; James Edwards, secretary of energy; Dr. Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. and Ray Donovan, secretary of labor.

More to be announced

Reagan names four new aides

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP) — U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan has named four more nominees to cabinet-level jobs in his new administration, including black attorney Samuel Pierce Jr. for housing secretary and a woman professor, Jeane Kirkpatrick, for ambassador to the United Nations.

Reagan also named former South Carolina

Governor James Edwards as his choice for energy secretary and attorney James Watt as his nominee for interior secretary.

The announcements brought to 14 the number of cabinet-level posts. Still to be disclosed are his choices for agriculture secretary, education secretary and special trade representative, a post that may be given cabinet-level status. Additional cabinet

announcements are to be made Tuesday, Reagan's press office said.

Choosing Pierce and Kirkpatrick, Reagan fulfilled a promise that minorities and women would be represented in his cabinet. His other 12 nominees are all white men. The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. has not always held cabinet rank, but it was under President Jimmy Carter, Reagan's Press Spokesman James Brady said the post will carry cabinet rank in the new administration as well.

The four new choices appeared at a downtown hotel here for the formal announcement by Reagan's transition aides of their nomination. The president-elect, who remained near his home in California, continued his practice of not being present to announce the choices.

In a written statement, Reagan said his four latest nominees "share with me a commitment to improve the quality of life for all the American people... to know the American people will be impressed with their ability, enthusiasm, dedication and creativity."

Retired Gen. Alexander Haig Jr., Reagan's controversial choice for secretary of state, and New Jersey construction executive Raymond Donovan, his nominee for labor secretary, attended Monday's news conference for their first formal appearance before the Washington press corps since their selections last week.

Pierce, 58, is a former New York Supreme Court justice who held posts in the treasury and labor departments during the Nixon administration. He was named in a 1964 memo by a high-ranking FBI official as the black that the bureau hoped would take over as leader of the civil rights movement if the FBI's campaign to discredit the late Martin Luther King Jr. succeeded.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, 53, is a political science professor at Georgetown University who wrote an article on foreign affairs that attracted Reagan's interest last year. A long-time Democrat, she is a member of the American Enterprise Institute — a conservative-oriented think tank — and served as a member of Reagan's transition foreign policy advisory group.

Edwards, 53, an oral surgeon, served as South Carolina's governor from 1975 to 1979. He has said he would enjoy presiding over the demise of the 2-year-old energy department, which Reagan vowed during his campaign to dismantle.

Watt, 42, has been waging legal battles against federal environmental regulations. His activism on this front has drawn sharp criticism from environmental groups that urged Reagan to reconsider naming Watt to head the interior department.

Reagan also had been expected to announce Monday that he had chosen Illinois agriculture director John Block as secretary of agriculture, but the transition office decided unexpectedly Monday to postpone an announcement.

Villagers burn U.N. building

BEIRUT, Dec. 23 (AP) — About 300 villagers set fire to a U.N. building in West Beirut and burned a half-dozen U.N. cars Tuesday during a demonstration protesting the failure of U.N. peacekeeping troops to prevent Israeli raids in southern Lebanon, U.N. officials said.

About 80 U.N. employees fled their office and several women jumped from windows of the building, a U.N. security guard at the scene told a reporter after the two-hour demonstration. The official also said several U.N. employees were beaten up. But there were no reports of serious injuries.

The demonstrators were from a half-dozen villages in southern Lebanon near the Israeli border that were the target of attacks by Israeli paratroopers and Israel-backed Christian militiamen last week.

Three major Israeli attacks in South Lebanon in the last week raised tensions in the area. Some of the protesting villagers were from Barasht, where dozens of houses were blown up and at least three Lebanese villagers killed in a raid last Thursday.

Khaled voted man of the year

Marcos honors Yamani

By Joe Pavia
Arab News Correspondent

MANILA, Dec. 23 — Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani Tuesday received the highest Philippine government decoration conferred on foreign dignitaries in recognition of his invaluable services as one of the world's most distinguished statesmen.

Yamani received the ancient order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu. It was conferred by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos during simple ceremonies held at Malacanang Palace and witnessed by senior government officials.

Yamani arrived in Manila Monday night after a six-day official visit to Australia. He was met at the airport by Marcos.

In the citation read by Philippine Energy Minister Gerardo Velasco, Yamani was lauded for adopting a moderate posture on crude oil during a critical period characterized by worldwide economic and political uncertainties. It added that as visionary minister, Yamani made the industrial society realize that their destinies "are intertwined with those of the growing family of industrial nations."

In accepting what he called a "great honor" conferred upon him, Yamani said he would "try my best to translate my feelings into action rather than words, and will go home with best memories of my visit and the overwhelming hospitality extended to me and my wife."

He also expressed the hope that the friendly relations between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia will grow stronger and deeper in the future.

Before the award ceremony, Marcos formally received Yamani and his delegation and briefed them on the progress of Philippine efforts to look for indigenous and renewable sources of energy under its five-year energy program.

In the briefing, Marcos cited the industrial tree planting program in order to produce dendrothermal sources of fuel and the conversion of existing industrial plants from the use of crude oil to wood, bagasse and others. Marcos also informed Yamani about the discovery of modest oil reservoirs which, hopefully, will reduce its oil importation and the development of volcanic steam or geothermal sources of energy.

Malacanang has still to make an official announcement on the length of Yamani's stay in the country and his itinerary during the visit. Before visiting Australia, Yamani attended the OPEC oil ministers meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

Meanwhile, Philippine media Tuesday paid tribute to Saudi Arabia for its "powerful influence in the many critical situations confronting the world," notably as a peacemaker and its moderate position among oil producing nations in the determination of world oil prices.

In front page editorials timed with the arrival in Manila of Yamani, major metropolitan dailies like the Philippines Daily Express, Times



Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani

Journal, Bulletin Today and People's Journal lauded Saudi Arabia for playing a vital role in dampening hostilities between Iran and Iraq and in preventing a Jordan-Syria war. They also said Saudi Arabia's commitment to peace, justice and harmony among nations is evident in many other spheres.

On the other hand, The People's Journal said the list of nominees from where the man of the year will be chosen would be credible only if it includes the name of King Khaled. It added "Saudi Arabia's progress and its contributions to world peace must be attributed largely to the wisdom and leadership of King Khaled. He is a most logical nominee for man of the year."

Aside from citing Saudi Arabia's role in containing the Syria-Jordan war and keeping the oil prices within reasonable levels, the editorials also noted Saudi Arabia's contributions in helping resolve the Mindanao problem which are as many as they are significant.

The Daily Express said: "In the 1974 Organization of Islamic Conference of foreign ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur, it was responsible for a resolution that upheld Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity as the framework of any political and peaceful solution to the movement in the South. A year before, the late Foreign Minister Omar al-Sakaf visited the Philippines and displayed sympathy and understanding of the Philippine situation. "In addition, the Saudi Arabian government has generously shown its concern with numerous grants and financial aid to the troubled areas in Mindanao, among them the King Faisal Institute in Marawi and the one million U.S. dollar donation to the development program in the area. The OPEC, of which Saudi Arabia is a prominent leader, has also set up an Islamic fund to be sent to developing countries."

The People's Journal also said the friendship of Saudi Arabia and the Philippines has been highlighted by visits to Manila of top-ranking Saudi Arabian officials. Before the arrival of Yamani, Minister of State and Ports Authority President Dr. Fayed Badr was here on a six-day official visit.

(Continued on back page)

Jet lands safely as wheelcover hits cabin

RIYADH, Dec. 23 (SPA) — A metal rim of a wheel tore loose from a Saudia jetliner shortly after takeoff Tuesday, punching a hole in the underside and two children fell out of the plane at an altitude of 29,000 feet, a statement by the Presidency of Civil Aviation said.

The plane, carrying 290 passengers and a crew of 16, made an emergency landing safely in Doha, Qatar. The Lockheed TriStar, Flight 162, took off about 1 a.m. local time (2300 GMT) Dhahran and was enroute to Karachi, Pakistan, when the accident occurred, the statement said.

The statement said that the pilot heard a loud noise coming from the area above the landing gear. At the same time, pressure immediately fell inside the aircraft and the Oxygen masks automatically dropped for the passengers.

The children who died were sucked out of the plane through the hole they were a boy aged seven and a girl of 13 from Pakistan.

A team of Saudi Arabian experts has arrived in Doha to investigate the incident. Assistant minister for defense and aviation affairs, Kamel Sindy, flew to Doha to head an investigation of the incident.

The statement said: "Cabin staff reported to the captain that a piece of metal from the cover of the landing wheels had broken off and struck the underside of the plane, opening a gaping hole 1.5 meters long and a meter wide."

"Two children sitting near this hole fell out of the plane," said the report, indicating the children were sucked out as a result of the rapid decompression that created an outward suction.

Gen. Jones in Israel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (AP) — Gen. David Jones, chairman of the U.S. Joint chief of Staff, arrived here from Jordan.

Jones has visited several Middle East countries during his recent tour, and is returning an official visit paid him last year by Israeli Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Rappaport Eytan.

Jones briefly met Eytan and reviewed an honor guard at Israeli army headquarters shortly after his arrival Monday. He will meet Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who serves as Israeli defense minister, during his five-day visit. But according to local press reports, no major policy issues are slated for discussion.

Jones also is scheduled to tour the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, visit an Israeli air base in the Sinai desert which will be turned over to Egypt, and travel to the good fence border crossing on the Israel-Lebanon border.

Cabinet stresses Yemen ties

'Soviets show good faith by quitting Afghanistan'

RIYADH, Dec. 23 (SP) — Saudi Arabia said Monday the Soviet Union must clear off Afghanistan before making any statements on security in the Gulf region. "The first step toward good faith by the Soviets would be in the form of a withdrawal from Afghanistan, to end the aggression inflicted on that Islamic country," Information Minister Muhammad Abdo Yamani said a cabinet meeting Monday night.

Dr. Yamani said the Cabinet session dealt at length with a recent statement issued by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, who had offered the United States and other Western powers a "hands-off-the-Gulf" pact.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states rejected the offer as a propaganda ruse. "Real security in the Gulf can only be attained in the best desired form when the region is kept outside the spheres of international conflicts and foreign intervention," Dr. Yamani said.

Saudi Arabia, will "exert itself to eliminate all types of tension in the Gulf," he added.

President Brezhnev proposed the pact during his visit to India earlier this month that foreign bases be banned in the Gulf region.

Crown prince Fahd was quoted by the Information Minister as saying that Saudi Arabia "will not permit any foreign bases or provide facilities on our soil." "It is in the interest of the world to keep the region away from international tension," the prince said.

The information minister also said that the cabinet was briefed by Defense Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz on the kingdom's relations with neighboring North Yemen. Dr. Yamani said the cabinet was instructed by Crown Prince Fahd to give "all support... to Saudi Arabian development programs in North Yemen "and to deepen brotherly relations with the sisterly country."

He described the relation with North Yemen as being based on "firm foundation of mutual respect" and that the kingdom

(Continued on back page)

Zahle siege called off

Armed manifestation ended

BEIRUT, Dec. 23 (AP) — A ceasefire ended a two-day Syrian bombardment of east Lebanon's Christian city of Zahle on Tuesday, in time for its 200,000 population to prepare for Christmas, Lebanese police sources reported.

They said the city's rightist Christian militia groupings have agreed to "end all aid-city armed manifestations" and turn over local security duties to Lebanon's regular army and police while the Syrians pledged a call off Zahle's siege.

The sources said the ceasefire took hold shortly before midnight after four hours of negotiations. The bombardment left 14 residents and militiamen killed and 30 houses destroyed by Lebanese police counts.

The Syrians, who police a four-year-old civil war armistice between Lebanon's nationalist Muslim and rightist Christian grouping, pounded Zahle after five Syrian

patrolmen were ambushed and killed in the city. It is 40 kilometers east of Beirut.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's combined Christian conservative military forces Tuesday asked the United Nations Security Council to send a U.N. observer team to Zahle, to investigate "aggression" against the city by Syrian forces.

The message, sent by Lebanese military forces commander Beshir Gemayel, also asked the Security Council to see that Syrian units in the peacekeeping Arab dissuasion force, which controls the Zahle area, respect the ceasefire as set out in resolution 436, voted by the Security Council on Oct. 6, 1978.

The message further demanded that the Syrian command be ordered to allow the International Red Cross into the fighting zone to bring medical aid and evacuate the wounded.

refuted these allegations.

An official statement said the Peking visit was "part of regular process of consultations between the two countries" and was in response to Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua's visit to Pakistan last January. The last two months have seen three top Chinese military delegations visiting Pakistan, two of them led by chiefs of Chinese navy and air force.

Meanwhile for a second time on Monday President Zia ul Haq told the nation to ignore rumors about border tension which he said were being circulated by vested interests. Addressing military garrison in the border town of Shaikot Gen. Zia said "there is nothing to worry" but told his forces to concentrate on improving professional capabilities.

Shahi starts visit to Peking

By Shahid Orakzai
Arab News correspondent

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 23 — Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi left here for Peking in a three-day official visit which assumes great significance in view of some latest developments in the region. Although officially described as routine, the visit was being viewed by diplomatic observers here in the background of a spat of anti-Pakistan propaganda by Indian news agency that China may build a naval base west of Karachi. The Indian claim, an apparent side effect of Soviet president's recent visit to New Delhi, has included charges like Pakistan building nuclear installations near Chinese border and presence of Chinese troops on Pakistani territory. Officials in Islamabad have repeatedly

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Gulf states start fund to help poor children

BAHRAIN, Dec. 23 — A new organization made up of the Arab Gulf states to help the humanitarian services of the United Nations was founded here Monday.

The Arab Gulf Organization for Support of United Nations Development Programs was announced by the Saudi Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz, who is honorary assistant to the U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim for the U.N. International Children Emergency Fund-UNICEF.



Prince Talal

Abdullah meets envoy

RIYADH, Dec. 23 (SPA) — Second Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard Prince Abdullah received Tuesday the Pakistani ambassador to the Kingdom, Najm Thaib Khan. The two officials discussed the close bilateral relations between their countries in the light of Crown Prince Fahd's recent visit to Pakistan.

Prayer Times

Wednesday	Mecca	Medina	Nejd
Fajr	5.30	5.38	5.09
Ishraq	6.55	7.03	6.34
Dhuhr	12.20	12.21	11.53
Asr	3.25	3.20	2.51
Maghrib	5.46	5.41	5.12
Isha	7.16	7.11	6.42

Since his appointment last year Prince Talal has been seeking support for the Gulf organization. Last month he announced that the government of Saudi Arabia offered \$60 million and that other Gulf states also promised to contribute to it. Total pledges now amount to \$200 million with only one remaining Gulf state still uncommitted. "But this is a purely technical difficulty," he said at a press conference here, indicating that it will be a matter of time before he received an assurance of payment.

The organization will be based here in a house donated by the government of Bahrain.

Prince Talal made it clear that the organization could not satisfy the demands of all the poor children and their parents, but it would extend financial assistance to UNICEF to do that. "There are 1,300 million children in the world who are considered poor," he said. Other assistance will be given to UNESCO, WHO, the ILO and others, he said. These agencies will channel the aid received from the organization to wherever in the world it is requested. UNICEF has 60 offices worldwide which cater for the poor children in 100 countries despite its meager resources, he said. The funds of the new Arab organization will further improve and expand its services.

In order to obtain more funds and organize greater care Prince Talal has suggested the formation of supreme committees for helping poor families and proposed that the industrialized states allocate seven per cent of their incomes for the development of the less fortunate countries.



BRIEFING: Senior officials of the new King Abdul Aziz International airport in Jeddah briefed journalists and writers about the project which is nearing completion. Brigadier Saeed Aymam, project director of international airports said it will open next year.

Airport emergency plans studied

DHAHRAN, Dec. 23 (SPA) — A seminar on civil aviation opened here Tuesday under Prince Abdul Mohsen, governor of the Eastern Province. The seminar is one in a series organized by the Presidency of Civil Aviation to display emergency plans in the Kingdom's airports and to secure coordination for them.

The seminar reviewed the emergency plan in case of aircraft accidents and discussed the roles to be played by various government departments represented in the Public Security, Air Force, Army, Civil Defense, and medical organizations and the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society.

The seminar decided to publish an emergency guide comprising the general instructions of the emergency plan, and to hold meetings with concerned government

departments to discuss the plan and draw up detailed schemes before beginning training. Sheikh Hamza Al-Dabbagh, acting president of civil aviation, and other experts attended the seminar.

Meanwhile, the first seminar for student affairs departments of Saudi Arabian universities opened here Monday. The three-day seminar, organized by the University of Petroleum and Minerals of Dhahran, is attended by deans of student affairs departments.

The opening speech was delivered by Dr. Ruwaid Al-Aqqad, dean of the student affairs department of UPM, in which he emphasized the role of the student departments in developing the personality of Muslim university students, with the assistance of the staff associations and other department of the universities.

Cassette recording of Koran published

LONDON, Dec. 23 (LPS) — A combined Arabic and English recording of the full text of the Koran and its meanings has been published in the form of a set of 54 tape cassettes, with the help of Saudi Arabian and other Arab scholars.

Each set consists of a presentation box containing the cassettes in nine book-shaped containers and a copy of the book, "The Meaning of the Glorious Koran."

The initial £100,000 order for 12,000 sets has been completed. Five hundred sets have

gone to Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad al-Qasbi, Ruler of Sharjah, who initiated the project, and 1,500 to the government of the United Arab Emirates.

Recitation of sections in Arabic is followed by Translation of the meanings in English. The Arabic text was recorded by the well-known Saudi Arabian Koran reciter, Sheikh Abdul Bari Muhammad, while the English is read by English Muslim writer Mr. Gai Eaton.

Scholars who checked the translation were

Dr. Ezzeddin Ibrahim, Cultural Adviser to the President of the United Arab Emirates and formerly Professor at Riyadh University; Denys Johnson-Davies, formerly lecturer at Cairo University and a well-known translator of Arabic literature; and Muhammad Mustafa al-A'zami, Professor at Riyadh University.

Kingdom funds U.K. lectureships

LONDON, Dec. 23 (LPS): Saudi Arabia's decision to fund two university lectureships in the UK has brought an enthusiastic response from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in North-East England, where the appointments will be made.

One of the lectureships will work in the religious studies department teaching mainly second and third year undergraduates. The post would create a new expertise for the teaching of Islamic studies at the university, said the department's head, Dr. John Sawyer.

The other appointment, of a specialist in

Plan Sino-Saudi cooperation Education ministers meet

RIYADH, Dec. 23 (SPA) — The Deputy Education Minister of the Republic of China, Dr. Li Mo, was received Tuesday by Education Minister Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Khuwaiter and Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdo Yamani.

Dr. Mo delivered verbal message to the Saudi Arabian ministers from the Education and Information Minister of China. The message included renewed invitation to Dr. Khuwaiter and Dr. Yamani to visit Taiwan. The two audiences were attended by Dr. Mahmoud Muhammad Safar, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and secretary general of the Higher Council of Universities.

Meanwhile, the joint Sino-Saudi Committee for Cultural Cooperation ended its meetings here Monday night. Dr. Safar, who headed the Kingdom's delegation, said the two countries agreed on drawing up a plan to implement the cultural agreements between the two countries and to take into consideration proposals related to the educational, cultural and information cooperation program.

Dr. Safar also said that the Kingdom welcomed China's invitation to organize a Sino-Saudi cultural week in Taiwan. Preparations will be made in cooperation with concerned parties in the two countries shortly, he added. The two sides also agreed to hold the fourth meeting of the joint committee in Taiwan a year from now.

MWL posts graduates

MECCA, Dec. 23 (SPA) — The secretary general of the Muslim World League, Sheikh Muhammad Ali Al-Harakan, decided Tuesday to appoint 30 graduates of the league's Koranic Studies Institute in Mauritania. The graduates will be posted in 12 African countries in accordance with the Muslim World League's efforts to spread Islam.

Sheikh Harakan agreed to double the number of students to be admitted to the institute this year to 60. The duration of study in the institute was extended from one year to two, after which the graduates will be qualified to work in the field of Dawa (call to Islam).

Arabic, will be in the university's language center which runs courses for businessmen as well as students. "We have been developing close links with Saudi Arabia since 1974 and now take on about 20 Saudi teachers each year to study at our language center," said Dr. Sawyer.

He expects that the new lecturers will also contribute to relevant studies in other departments such as history, linguistics, architecture and archaeology.

It is thought that the lectures will start work in April next year.

Dr. Safar praised the cooperation between Saudi Arabian and Chinese universities in joint scientific research and exchange of professors, books and students. He said that this cooperation will open prospects of wider cooperation between the educational institutions of the two countries.

Dr. Mo led the Chinese delegation in the meetings of the joint committee for cultural cooperation that began here Sunday.

COMMENT

By Hussein Ali Hussein
Al Medina

Sometime ago, I read a bitter complaint sent by a group of Saudi Arabian female nurses working with the Central Hospital in Riyadh. They had focused on a number of sensitive points which they considered enough to turn them away from the job they had liked. The ministry evidently does not give them the same consideration as foreign nurses, although the salary and other expenditure of Saudi Arabian nurses is comparatively smaller than those of their expatriate colleagues.

The complainants do not receive any incentive, though they have completed more than eight years in this profession. Since there is no transportation for them, they found themselves forced to buy an autobus at their personal expense. The driver engaged for them by the hospital, hardly comes daily, while expatriate nurses are provided with luxurious apartments and lessons in Arabic and English, besides other allowances. The Saudi Arabian nurses is not only deprived of all this but is also not given the 20 per cent of allowance granted to others. How, then, can the ministry encourage and attract Saudi Arabians to this dignified service?

Generally, the salary of a native employee is smaller than his expatriate colleague, especially those working with the Ministry of Health. We have long waited for the solution to this problem, so that native workers feel encouraged to join government service instead of invariably going toward private companies and establishments.

Both the Ministry of Health and the Presidency of Girls Education are miserly toward their women employees, as they don't provide them with transport between their residence and their place of duty. The Saudi Arabian woman is not yet used to riding a taxi alone, so she is either escorted by her working husband or else she has to board a public bus.

We have great hopes that the authorities will consider the dignified role being played by the women in our country with a sense of appreciation and liberality rather than keeping them tied to the injustice accompanies their role.

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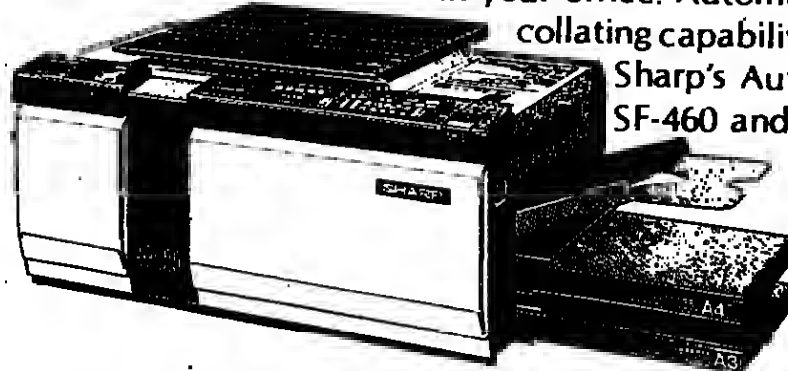
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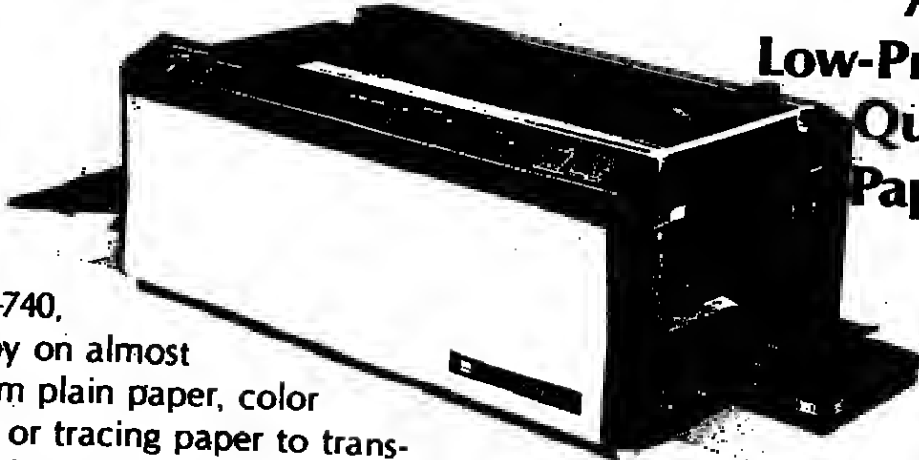
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One year after invasion

Afghan fighters keep Soviet army at bay

MOSCOW, Dec. 23 (AP) — One year after Soviet combat troops entered Afghanistan, the Soviet Union still faces international condemnation, trade restrictions and a freedom fighters' war in Afghanistan itself.

Soviet officials still seem convinced that their military move was worthwhile. Some also believe international opposition has already passed its peak.

"I don't think that when the decision to go into Afghanistan was made there was a very careful weighing up of the pros and cons," says one Soviet foreign affairs specialist. "It was something we felt we had to do. But in the long run, it seems to have been worth it."

On the plus side for Moscow, the prospect of an anti-Soviet Afghanistan on its southern border has been eliminated for the time being. Third World countries and the West have seen that the Kremlin is not shy at defending its vital interests by force if necessary.

As for the Western allies, Soviet officials believe Moscow's Afghan intervention has shown their weakness as much as their unity. In the view of Soviet analysts, Western sanctions have been disorganized and temporary, and have barely disrupted the overall flow of East-West trade.

Western diplomats believe the Soviets still face many problems over Afghanistan, however, perhaps so many that thoughts of other military action — in Poland, for instance —

have been shelved.

Western sources say the Red Army has suffered more than 7,000 casualties in a year of fighting against Muslim fighters, has failed to get much help from the desertion-plagued Afghan army and has no early prospect of being able to withdraw.

"They thought that if the great, mighty Soviet army went in there, the resistance would just fold up like it did in Czechoslovakia in 1968," one Western specialist said. "It didn't happen."

Rival wings of the pro-Soviet Afghan government continue to attack each other under the Soviets' noses, according to reports from the area. Rebels are said to control much of the countryside.

"I'd say the Russian army is trapped down there for at least another year. If two years they can negotiate with someone," a Western diplomat said. "They're probably also facing the temptation of escalation — which would take them in deeper, in the hope of finishing the job against the rebels."

Moscow still needs repair on its international reputation and foreign trade, although neither has been wrecked beyond help by the Afghan intervention. Some analysts saw Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's trip to India this month as an attempt to rebuild Moscow's Third World image after two crushing United Nations votes against the Soviet intervention.

Israel cuts defense budget by 25 per cent

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (R) — The Israeli government, desperately battling to contain record inflation, has decided to slash defense spending by a quarter, despite warnings that the move could weaken the armed forces.

A team of Israeli ministers, headed by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Monday rejected last-minute pleas from military commanders and opted for the trimmed defense budget of \$ 2.1 billion described by the treasury as essential to curb an annual inflation rate now running at 138 per cent.

Cabinet sources said that Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rafael Eitan, backed by his senior aides, had warned the ministers a drastic cut would have a serious effect on the armed forces.

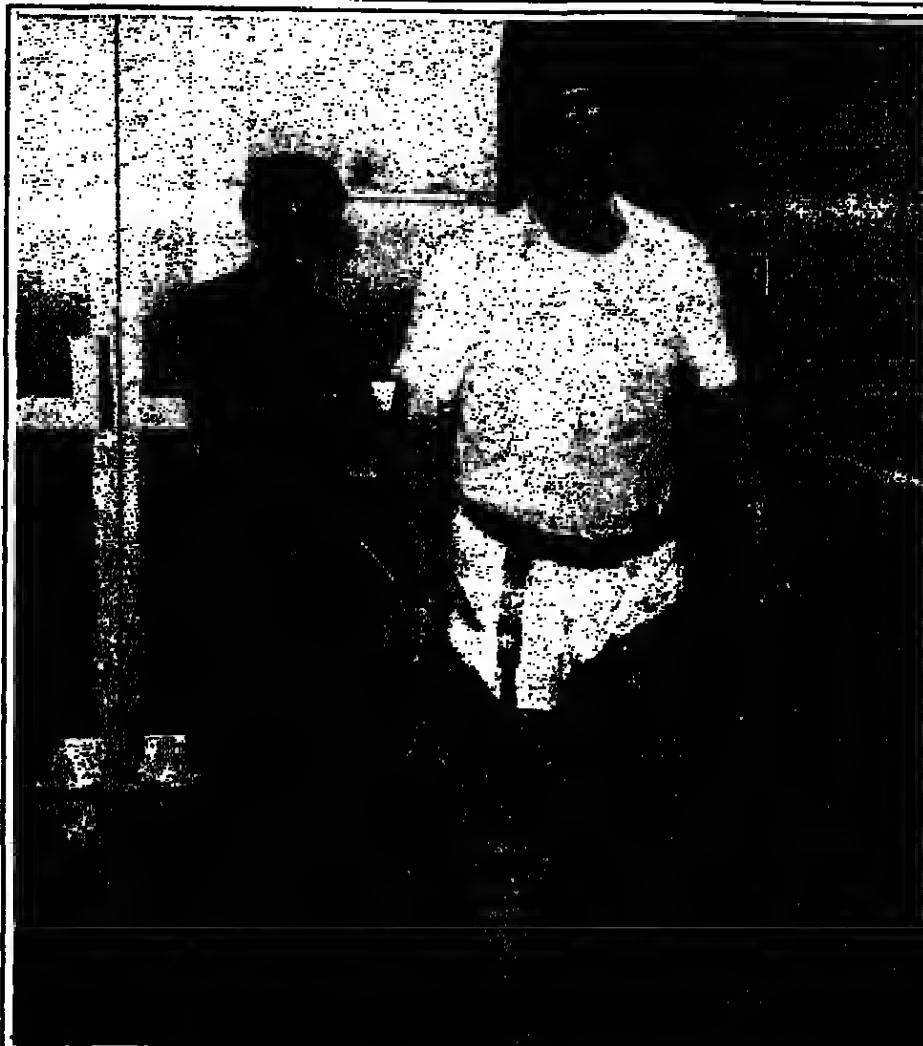
Military sources have said the reduced sum appropriated for military spending would mean the sacking of 10,000 professional soldiers and lead to limited training schemes. An ambitious plan to develop Israel's next fighter plane, called the Arië (lion), might also have to be shelved following the cuts, the sources said.

Finance Minister Yigal Haritz now faces the task of getting other ministries to bring the total 1981 spending down to 60.5 billion shekels (\$8.2 billion) from this year's 65.3 billion shekel (\$8.7 billion) budget.

Haritz is expected to meet stiff opposition from ministers who fear that reduced public services would deal a further blow to the government's popularity only 11 months before general elections.

But Haritz has threatened to resign unless his colleagues accept the austerity budget which he regards as vital if a 200 per cent inflation figure is to be avoided next year.

The army chiefs agreed Monday that cutting defense appropriations would send shock waves throughout the whole economy.



NEW LEGS: First steps to a new life for the Mayor of Nabulus, Basmam Al-Shakka, as watched by his wife, he tries out his artificial legs at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in London. Since coming to Britain in mid-August Shakka has made faster progress than even his doctors expected. He was first fitted with a short pair of legs to give him confidence. This was followed by an intermediate pair and finally the full-sized legs which he will try out for a week or two in London before returning to Nabulus. Al-Shakka said: "I am very pleased with the treatment I have received. I am feeling well and my health is good."

U.S. urged to finalize N- accord with Egypt

By Bob Lebling
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 — A congressional oversight team has recommended that the U.S. "move expeditiously" to complete a bilateral nuclear assistance accord with Egypt — discontinuing once and for all linkage of such aid for Egypt with comparable assistance to Israel.

The team, reporting to the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Representatives, urged Congress to "separate the linkage" between nuclear technology assistance to the two countries "because of the reluctance of Israel to allow their apparently sensitive facilities at Dimona to come under international safeguards."

The U.S. has been trying to negotiate nuclear aid agreements with Egypt and Israel since 1974. Since then the American approach has been to seek parallel accords under which each country would receive essentially the same assistance as the other.

In 1978, Congress passed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act, requiring tighter safeguards and international inspections for U.S. nuclear technology exported abroad.

An accord with Israel is far from completion, because of Israeli unwillingness to allow international inspection of its nuclear facility at Dimona in the Negev Desert. American intelligence sources believe Israel has manufactured a number of atomic bombs at that site. The U.S. nuclear agreement with Egypt, on the other hand, is nearing its final stages.

Numeiri urges action to end Libyan intervention in Chad

KHARTOUM, Dec. 23 (Agencies) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri has called for collective African action to force the Libyan troops to withdraw from Chad.

The Sudanese News Agency said he made the remarks to a Nigerian envoy, who sources said had come to invite Numeiri to attend the Lagos African reconciliation conference due to start Tuesday. Numeiri, the agency said, was delegating his Minister of Industry Ezeldin Hamid to the meeting.

"The intervention of Libyan troops in Chad will make the situation there very precarious," Numeiri is said to have told the Nigerian envoy. "Collective African action must be taken to force the Libyan troops to withdraw and allow the sons of Chad to achieve stability."

Libyan troops are backing the forces of Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei against those of former Defense Minister Hissine Habre.

Earlier Monday, President Goukouni said Libya and Chad will "fight together to the death ... in the interest of Chad." Interviewed

on French television in N'Djamena on the eve of the Lagos summit, which he has refused to attend, Goukouni said he did not care what the West or other African states thought about Libya's involvement in Chad.

"That's not my concern," he said. "The main thing is that I see what my country's interest is. Right now, the Chadian and Libyan people are bound by blood and by geography, and will fight together to the death," he said.

Goukouni has denied there are any Libyan troops in Chad, but has said his government is being "very strongly supported by Libya on the technical and material side."

Meanwhile, ten African heads of state were due Tuesday to formally confer in Lagos in a bid to restore peace to Chad under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Twelve countries are expected to take part in the summit, but two — Sudan and Libya — will be represented by more junior officials. The presence of Libya, which has been criticized for giving military backing to Goukouni, has not yet been confirmed.

BRIEFS

TEHRAN, (R) — An earthquake in north central Iran Monday destroyed a village and damaged nine others, killing at least three persons the official Pars news agency said Tuesday.

ISLAMABAD, (AP) — A Pakistani court Tuesday found a man guilty of stealing three goats and sentenced him to amputation of his right hand. The conviction of Hussain Mahesar under the 1979 Islamic law for punishment of theft was announced at Dadu in southern Pakistan by judge Nazir Muhammad Sheikh.

KHARTOUM, (AFP) — The Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), one of two movements fighting for the independence of

Eritrea from Ethiopia, has rejected a proposal from its rival, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), for a referendum in the province, an ELF spokesman said here Monday.

TEL AVIV, (AFP) — Right-wing member of parliament Gonen Cohen announced Monday she was withdrawing a bill calling for Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights near the border with Syria. Mrs. Cohen took the decision after both the government and the opposition Labor Party said they would vote against the move.

ISLAMABAD, (AFP) — Nine persons died of gas poisoning in the Punjab capital Lahore Monday, police said.

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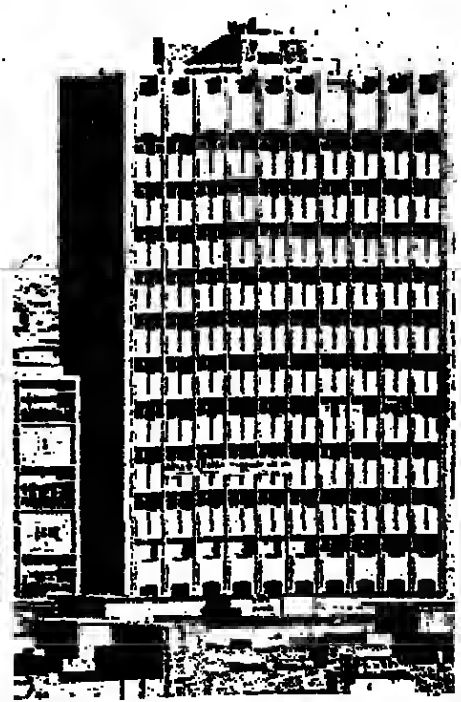
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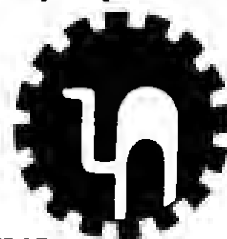
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Pentagon bares host of N-goofs

32 since 1950
but Titan blast
broke 12-year lull

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP) — The Pentagon has said its records show 32 accidents involving nuclear weapons have occurred since 1950, but only one of them in the past 12 years. Officials said that the only accident since 1968 occurred last September when a giant Titan II missile exploded in a silo at Damascus, Arkansas.

They noted that the United States ended routine airborne alerts of B-52 bombers armed with nuclear weapons in 1968. Early that year, a B-52 crashed near Thule, Greenland, with four hydrogen bombs aboard.

Nowadays, a portion of the B-52 force armed with nuclear weapons is kept on ground alert at Strategic Air Command bases in the United States, ready for takeoff in emergencies. In addition to the 32 accidents, the military also takes note of what it calls "incidents" of a less critical nature.

"Obviously, there have been more than 32 incidents" of lesser gravity, said Lt. Col. Jerry Grohowski, a Pentagon spokesman. He said there are no statistics available on these relatively less serious episodes. For example, a spill of propellant at a Titan II silo in Kansas in 1978 is not included among the 32 accidents even though two air force crewmen were killed while the propellant was being loaded into a missile, official said. They said this was because there was no nuclear warhead on the missile at the time and thus no danger of a nuclear explosion. Warheads are removed from the liquid-fuel Titan missiles whenever propellant is loaded or unloaded, officials said.

In 1968, after the B-52 crash near Thule, the Pentagon was asked for a rundown of previous mishaps and it then listed 13 previous nuclear accidents dating back to 1958. Officials said they are unable to explain why the Pentagon at that time did not report the larger figure of 31 accidents occurring prior to 1968. They said that an updated figure has been provided since to individual newsmen on request.

Drivers come unglued

BRESCIA, Italy, Dec. 23 (AP) — The northbound lane of the Milan-Venice superhighway was closed for several hours Monday after dozens of cars were glued to the asphalt by highly adhesive chemicals leaked from a truck following an accident, police reported. The tires of cars became stuck when drivers slowed down and tried to pass the scene of a crash between two trucks. Police used chemical solvents to free the blocked vehicles.



TITAN RUBBLE: Reporters view the rubble of a Titan missile silo at Damascus, Arkansas, after officials opened the site last week. The Pentagon now says there were 32 accidents involving nuclear weapons since 1950.

Stone conceals message

Queen sits on Scots' prank

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AP) — When Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in Westminster Abbey, she was apparently sitting on top of a defiant message hidden inside the ancient "coronation stone" by Scottish nationalists.

In the prank, which was reported for the first time Monday, a Scot who helped repair the stone in 1951 says he inserted the message in one of two copper tubes that now hold it together. Demonstrating that ancient passions live on in the British Isles, the message reads: "March 1951. Stone of destiny. This stone belongs to Scotland. It was stolen by Edward the First of England in 1296. The Church of England should be ashamed to admit that they have allowed this piece of stolen property to remain in Westminster Abbey from that time."

"It must be returned to Scotland and no doubt it will be demanded for the reopening of the Scottish Parliament, which was never closed but only adjourned in 1707."

The message is the subject of a British Broadcasting Corp. program, "A Gesture of Destiny," to be broadcast Thursday.

Known to the Scots as the Stone of Destiny, the red sandstone was the coronation stone of Scottish kings at Scone, 49 miles north of Edinburgh, from the dawn of history. Its resting spot on Boot Hill — the mound built up by chieftains who each brought a bootful of earth from their territories as a sign of allegiance — was the sacred spot for the early Picts, who harassed the Romans 2,000 years ago.

The stone was captured by the English in 1297 and since then has been embedded in the throne on which British monarchs are crowned. But not without objections from generations of Scots.

On Christmas Day of 1950, four young Scottish nationalists, including a woman, stole the 448-pound oblong rock from Westminster Abbey. They kept it hidden for 109 days, moving it about to foil both Scotland Yard and Scottish Republican militants who wanted to dump it into the First of Clyde. During the theft the stone was broken, and after its recovery it was repaired by a Glasgow stonemason, Edward Manley.

Manley inserted the message aided by two leading Scottish nationalists, Glasgow University rector John MacCormick and Robert Gray, according to the new information.

All three men are now dead, but Gray attached a copy of the message to his will, which passed to his wife in 1961. When she died last month their son passed it on to the BBC. On Sunday, Dean of Westminster Rev. Edward Carpenter said, "I did not know this until now, but I can say there is no possibility of the stone's being reopened."

When the next king of England steps up to the throne to be crowned Scots may recall with pleasure the last two lines of Shakespeare's Macbeth in which King Malcolm says:

"So thanks to all at once, and to each one,
Whom we invite to see us crown'd at Scone."

Haig cites top foreign policy items

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP) — Retired Gen. Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan's nominee for U.S. Secretary of State, has listed for newsmen "highly sensitive and dynamic foreign policy issues" he is studying in preparing for his new assignment.

He said that while dealing with "a host of ongoing problems of some magnitude," he is doing his best "to read into" these issues "ranging from the critical situation in Poland, to the situation in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq conflict, the problems in our own hemisphere — especially in El Salvador, matters of arms control, future discussions of relationships with the Soviet Union."

Haig appeared at a news conference with the latest group of Reagan cabinet choices. A reporter asked Haig what assurances he could give that he would try to keep the world at peace because as a military man he had caused concern to some people.

Haig replied that "it is a fully important to keep in mind that it's the military men who know and see first-hand the dreadful sacrifices that conflict entails and I know of no rational military man, especially one in our heritage, American heritage, who would be anything but an avid proponent for international stability and peace with justice."

He said he has always been a great adherent of civilian control of the military and recalled "one of our greatest secretaries of state," General George Marshall, was a military man and said he hoped he could "make somewhat a comparable contribution."

Reviewing his immediate tasks, Haig said he is faced with the immense task of filling hundreds of "vital positions" in the State Department and working with Reagan "on filling vital embassies abroad" as well as picking his own staff. He said this is an urgent and time-consuming task, involving interviews and discussions with key nominees.

Haig said he is also busy moving out of his post as president of a \$12 billion corporation to which he had total responsibility for the full operations, referring to United Technologies.

In addition to all of this time-consuming work, he said, "I have to prepare myself for the host of questions that have arisen recently from some sources on past history associated with the Watergate affair."

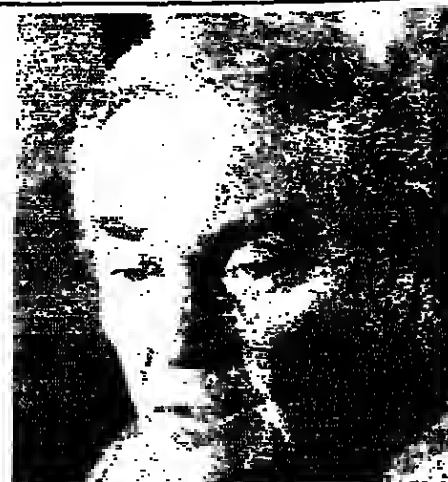
Haig avoided giving his views of the way the hostage problem is being handled. "I am generally inclined always to support the president and the secretary of state on important issues of this kind," he said. He said all Americans should rally behind the Carter administration as long as it remains in office.

Haig had held his first transition talk in the morning with Musk. The hostage problem was one of the items discussed. Musk Monday rejected Iran's latest terms for the hostages' release.

Police find medallion

NAPLES, Dec. 23 (AP) — Police said they have recovered an ancient Roman gold medallion and other artifacts worth \$33 million stolen from the Naples Museum in February 1977.

Italian, Swiss and French police worked together to retrieve the goods, which were found in a Zurich safe deposit box, a Paris hotel room and a Rome residence. They arrested Walter Guarini, 35, of Pulsano Marittima, Italy.



Alexander Haig

Cook tells court Bokassa dined on human flesh

BANGUI, Central African Republic, Dec. 23 (R) — A palace cook of former Emperor Bokassa told a court here that he fried human flesh for the ousted monarch. The cook, who said he was called Philippe Linguissa, was giving evidence as a witness in a state trial in absentia of the ousted emperor, now living in the Ivory Coast.

Bokassa is charged with dozens of crimes, including cannibalism and plotting against the state's internal and external security. Since the trial began last week 34 people, most of them former aides of Bokassa, have testified against him, alleging that they lived under threat of death if they failed to carry out the emperor's orders precisely.

The former emperor's cook gave few details, but said the flesh he cooked was human and described when and how often Bokassa ordered his macabre meals. He told the court that after each meal, Bokassa gave him a special drug which had very painful effects.

About 20 witnesses are scheduled to give evidence in the next few days. The trial is expected to end this week. If found guilty, Bokassa faces the death penalty. But the prospects of it being carried out are considered slim.

Among the other crimes laid to Bokassa is the caning of 39 schoolchildren at a jail in a provincial town. The children had been arrested after they stayed away from the classroom rather than pay for uniforms manufactured by a firm run by one of the emperor's wives.

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Soccer stars acquitted by Rome judges

ROME, Dec. 23 (R) — A Rome court has acquitted 38 soccer personalities, including players and officials, on charges of having fixed eight first and second division soccer matches last season. The verdict, which also absolved three bookmakers, was cheered wildly by the defendants, who included World Cup star Paolo Rossi. Several broke down in tears.

Only a few hours before the court announced its decision, the appeal tribunal of the Italian soccer Federation confirmed its own suspensions of players and officials over the affair and the relegation of the Lazio and Milan clubs to the second division.

The scandal, which shocked Italian sports fans, broke in March this year when two bookmakers confessed they had bribed players to fix matches but had made huge losses when the players reneged on their promises. Monday night the panel of judges said there was no criminal case to answer.

Rome bookmaker Massimo Cruciani was fined \$322 and ordered to pay the cost of the trial for having backed bank checks. Cruciani and Alvaro Trinca, another bookmaker, triggered the complex case when they claimed they paid checks to leading soccer stars and officials in order to obtain results connected with bets on soccer games.

As the result of their allegations 17 players were suspended by the soccer federation for periods of up to six years. Among them was Paolo Rossi, the 23-year-old Perugia striker, handed for two years, while Milan Club president Felice Colombo was suspended for life.

The prosecution in the criminal case had asked for prison sentence of up to two-and-a-half years for 24 of the defendants on charges of fraud.

Charitable wife jailed

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AP) — Some people will do anything for charity — like spending the night in a creepy 16th-century dungeon. That's what Debbie Reynolds, a suburban London housewife, did Sunday night to collect pledges of \$7,050 for British lifeboats.

Mrs. Reynolds, a 24-year-old mother of two, pledged herself to undertake the ordeal after a friend was saved from drowning by one of the dozens of lifeboats dotted around Britain's coast, manned by volunteers.

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Now tied with Australia on points

India edges New Zealand

ADELAIDE, Australia, Dec. 23 (AP) — India beat New Zealand by six runs with three balls remaining in their Benson and Jedges World series Cup match at Adelaide Oval Tuesday.

Set a target of 230, New Zealand made a valiant effort before being dismissed for 224 when the last two batsmen were out without addition to the total.

India's win lifted it to six points and level with Australia. Both have played five games. New Zealand has four points from six games.

Yashpal Sharma won the man of the match award for his brilliant innings of 72.

New Zealand, well placed at one stage with a score two for 105, following a third wicket partnership of 69 in 77 minutes between Geoff Howarth and Jeremy Coney, suddenly lost four wickets.

Howarth, Warren Lees, Coney and Richard Hadlee were out for the addition of only 29 runs, which left New Zealand six for 34.

India won the toss, and in keeping with this tactic of batting first Sunil Gavaskar had New Zealand field. India began with its usual certainty with Gavaskar (17) and Dilip

Vengsarkar (3) failing again. But opener Chauhan defied New Zealand for just on two hours for his 43 and slow Sharma produced the most exhilarating form of the tour so far.

Yashpal cracked four sixes and three boundaries in his 72 runs.

India had taken 128 minutes to score its first 100 runs off 32.2 overs but the second 100 occupied 65 minutes off 13.4 overs. More so, after the first 100 runs India added a further 130 runs in only 84 minutes off 17.4 overs.

At one stage, Sharma hit fast left-arm bowler Jeremy Coney for three sixes in his deliveries and was finally caught at long on going for a big hit.

Before his departure, he added a further 39 runs in 24 minutes with Sayed Kirmani.

And the innings ended on a typical note with Ghavri swinging the last ball of the innings over mid-on for six.

It was the exact margin with which India won the match.

Kapil Dev hit the ball beautifully for five boundaries in his 27 and Sayed Kirmani, despite the handicap of a hamstring muscle injury, kept the runs flowing for an unbeaten 39.

New Zealand batsmen were most consistent but they still lost the match, although while Mark Burges (42) and glib-hitting Lance Cairns (39) shared their seventh wicket partnership of 79 in 68 minutes the New Zealanders held high hopes of victory.

When the final over of the match began, New Zealand needed seven runs to win with two wickets standing.

Karsan Ghavri held a beautifully judged catch from Mario Snedden on the mid-wicket fence, and two balls later, Kapil Dev knocked back Gary Troup's middle stump for a thrilling win.

Meanwhile, in the Australian cricket selectors on Tuesday named 13 players for the third test against New Zealand starting in Melbourne on Boxing Day Friday and the first test against India starting in Sydney on January 2.

Victorian all-rounder Shaun Graf, who was 12th man in the second test in Perth, has been replaced in the squad of 12 named for the third test against New Zealand because of a fitness problem.

Graf is not playing for Victoria in the present Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania in Hobart because of a back injury.



HELD: K.D. Ghavri, who took two wickets and held a vital last over catch, seen in recent action.

Italian soccer stars cleared

ROME, Dec. 23 (AP) — A local court Monday cleared all soccer players and team officials implicated in a nationwide game-fixing scandal of any criminal charges.

The court's decision could encourage the National Soccer League to reduce suspensions and other penalties that it fixed earlier this year on more than a dozen players, including national team stars Paolo Rossi and Bruno Giordano.

The court set a fine of 300,000 lire plus court costs for Massimo Craciun, a vegetable dealer who had allegedly paid off the players. He was penalized for

Squad selected

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AFP) — Thirteen members of the English Rugby Union squad which won the grand slam last season will play in the final selection match on Jan. 3 at Twickenham, to choose the English side to meet Wales on Jan 17 at Cardiff.

The two men from last year's fifteen not selected were wing Tony Neary (Broughton Park) and Roger Uttley (Wasps), who each have retired from international rugby union.

Uttley will be replaced by Mike Rafter (Bristol), who has already played for England 14 times. Rafter lost his place to Uttley last year, although he substituted for a hurt Uttley in the match against Wales.

Neary will be supplanted by newcomer Peter Cook (Nottingham) who has played well in recent regional championship matches.

Cook, 23, is a mathematics teacher. Back Dusty Hare (Leicester) and flyhalf John Horton could not play in the regional matches because of injury but were still selected.

Marcus Rose, who played well in the Oxford-Cambridge university match at Twickenham and then in the first regional round, is Hare's main rival.

Batsmen crash on rainswept wicket

Windies routs Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan, Dec. 23 — With one and half days play washed by rain the West Indian pacers swept Pakistan's front line batting order on a half dry wicket capturing six wickets for only 68 runs on the close of second days play in their 3rd test here Tuesday.

Homeside was in more embarrassing position when they lost four wickets only for 14 runs but a 5th wicket partnership of 39 runs between skipper Miandad and allrounder Imran Khan brought some consolation to a thirty thousand crowd.

The decision to bat by skipper Miandad after a lucky toss proved disastrous for homeside with the ball keeping very low on this pitch. Opener Sadiq Muhammad and

Shafiq Ahmed were given leg before in first two overs with scoreboard yet to move. Stylish Zahoor Abbas getting hurt with a bouncer or forehead and retiring to pavilion came as a third shock.

Majestic Majed Khan gave an easy catch to Baccus off Colin Croft without scoring and replacement Wasim Raja scored only two runs before falling victim to Croft and Baccus combination.

Imran who scored his first test century against the Windies in current tour played responsibly but umpire gave him leg before when he was 21. Having played the delivery before it hit his pads, and angry Imran threw his bat in protest.

Ijaz Faqih who had shown maximum resistance to Windies pacers in side matches was clean bowled by Marshall on the second ball of his first test appearance.

Keeper Wasim Bari with 3 runs was supporting skipper Miandad solidly batting on 38.

Among the Caribbeans Croft pocketed three wickets for only thirteen runs in eleven overs, five of them maiden.

Lyle gets award

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AFP) — Britain's Sandy Lyle has won the British Golf Writers' Trophy as the player who has done the most for European golf in 1980.

Lyle clinched the award by a substantial margin when he won the individual title at the World Cup in Bogota two weeks ago.

He comfortably topped the poll of 'the association Of Golf Writers' for the first time with Spain's Severiano Ballesteros, the winner last year finishing runner-up.

Lyle, a 23-year-old Anglo-Scott, was also top money-winner on the European circuit for the second successive time this year.

Lyle said: "This is the biggest honour I could receive apart from winning the British Open Championship. I missed out last year when 'Sevvy' received the award and it is absolutely tremendous to get it this time."

Lyle goes to play on the United States circuit in the middle of January but he promises to be back in time for the start of the British season next May.

NASL makes contract with players

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP) — Guaranteed salaries, limited fines and a voice in the running of the sport are among the terms won by the players in its first contract with the North American Soccer League.

Ed Garvey, who headed the union's negotiating team, described the collective bargaining agreement as most progressive and would establish patterns for bargaining in football and other professional sports.

The union's board of representatives, by a vote of 20-1, approved the contract and submitted it to the rank-and-file for ratification. Management had approved the agreement.

Among terms of the agreement are minimum salaries of \$18,000 for a rookie, \$19,200 for a second-year man and \$22,800 for a third-year man, which Garvey said would mean that 25 per cent of the league's players would get a raise in salary. There were no minimums previously.

In addition, once a player makes a team he will be entitled to collect the minimum salary for the remainder of the year. If injured, he receives the minimum wage the next year, and if the injury ends his career, he will receive an additional \$25,000.

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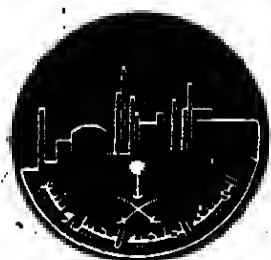
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Ambassador tells club meeting

U.S. policy endangers Middle East moderation

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is the second and final part of a speech delivered to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco by His Excellency Sheikh Faisal Alhagel, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the United States of America.)

As inhabitants of the area, Saudi Arabia and the other Arab states have a far greater stake and fuller knowledge than any outsider as to the mainstream nature and base of the Palestinian people and the fact there can be no real stability in our part of the world until the Palestinians have their own stake and state there.

America's self-imposed ineffectiveness on all this fools no one, diminishes America's influence, alienates the area and endangers the stability of both that region and the international community.

The refusal of Israel to respect the legitimate human and political rights of the Palestinians and Zionism's coveting of the lands and holy places of others in the area, constitute the most destabilizing, radicalizing danger which exists for that part of the world and for the crucial interest of the international community in our sector of the globe.

There can be no real security against intrusion from outside, nor reliable stability within the area, through force alone... and certainly not through reliance on surrogates, particularly when the latter are deliberately provocative. Either approach could be precipitously destabilizing not just in the Middle East but throughout Islam and important sectors of the developing world across thousands of miles and in many areas, all at the same time.

In the most fundamental sense, the stability and security of the Middle East and the Gulf portion of it, must be built on the people and societies, and the principal institutions, which make up the overwhelming majority of the area.

The proven bastions and major sources of historical vitality in the vast bulk of the region from the Atlantic to the Shari-al-Arab and Strait of Hormuz, are unmistakably the Arab people, Islam and the forces of moderation which have verified themselves over the arduous longer testings in that sector of the globe.

Looking ahead a half decade and even a half century or more, the interests of America, the Arab countries and the Islamic world are overwhelmingly convergent on a broad range of economic, financial and resource challenges. Far more important, you and we believe in the central role of religion and of the Almighty in human society, the key place of the family, the need for human development and a commitment to the dignity and worth of all mankind, the critical importance of order and stability, and the imperative of seeking and doing justice.

Only one major problem obstructs the larger prospect that we share for this world and time: the urgency for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Regional stability and region-wide development are the indispensable goals of those in the area. Those should also be the objective of outsiders who would play a constructive role there.

A narrow foundation is divisive and inadequate to the challenges, especially since it would overburden the few friends on whom it would rely. A foundation hostage to a single country that is unwilling to give up occupation on Arab lands and Muslim holy places is illusory and dangerous, especially for any who would rely on such a chimera.

America's tilting in favor of Israel is the only reason the Soviet Union has been able to get into the Middle East to any marked extent. The Soviets seek out those who would much prefer to look to the West, and

America in particular, but cannot so long as the United States subsidizes the military occupation of their territory or the suppression of their people's right to govern themselves.

At the same time, Israeli military actions radicalize key parts of a region historically and inherently conservative and long connected with the West. The net consequences imperil both the area and the international community, including above all the most developed economies.

Vice President Mondale recently proudly pointed out that Israel had received eleven billion dollars in assistance from the United States in just the last three and a half years.

Saudi Arabia, in contrast, has placed orders within the last year and a half for over fifteen billion dollars worth of goods and services here in the United States.

At the same time, Saudi Arabia has been selling its oil below both OPEC and non-OPEC prices and maintaining production at extraordinarily high levels. And it has been doing that in order to help reinforce international stability.

It is also worth emphasizing that Saudi Arabia and the other forces of moderation in our part of the world have kept the necessary oil flowing internationally. Not even the outbreak of hostilities between two key oil-producing states in the area has been able to interrupt that flow or cause marked economic consequences for the rest of the international community.

It is not at all clear, however, that the flow can be assured if the Arab-Israeli conflict is allowed to fester, with the deeply pervasive implications of that problem for the entire region and far beyond.

The pressing need at this juncture of events

is not merely to avoid and correct the negative dangers which exist but to recognize that we are all at the threshold of vast and positive opportunities in the area — both developmental and on behalf of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

That is the central matter which should be gotten to focus for the period ahead.

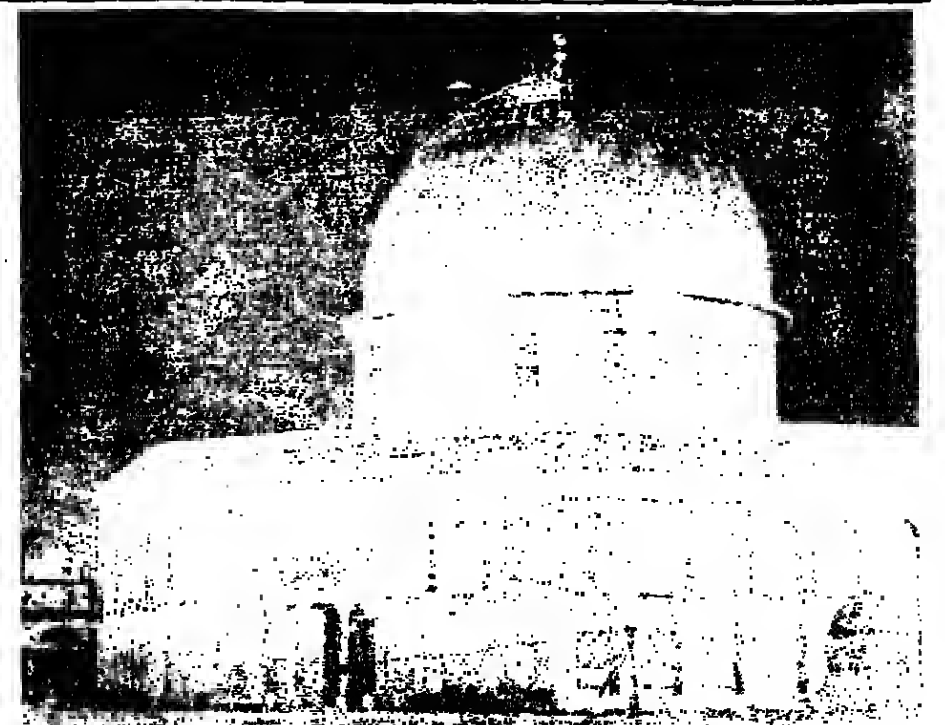
In closing, let me leave with you these five basic points:

First, for the coming quarter of a century and likely much longer, the prosperity of the American and international economies are inseparably tied to the stability of the Middle East and especially the Gulf portion of that region. For the area contains over 75 per cent of all the oil in the world internationally available plus the principal new capital resources that can be brought to bear for developmental and other critical purposes.

Second, the Gulf states, their stability and security, are inseparably connected by the very essence of their people in the Middle East as a whole and — unavoidably — in the right of their fellow Arabs, the Palestinians, to self-determination and the return of the occupied Arab lands, including above all Arab Jerusalem.

Third, while a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict will not solve all the problems in that sector of the globe, it can do far more than any other course in establishing a framework and foundation for order, moderation, a standard of justice rather than force, momentum for other basic problem-solving and the support of the overwhelming majority of people who live in the area.

Fourth, Israel is not a security asset for



OCCUPIED: The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem

anyone either regionally or internationally, but a strategic burden which has the effect of radicalizing broad and crucial elements in a part of the world historically and inherently conservative and long connected with the West.

Fifth and last, a comprehensive settlement would not only turn back the danger of radical destabilizing and outside opportunism aimed at the area, but also make practical a concert of effort among America, the Arab world and the international community as a whole in a broad range of steps concerning energy, economic development, finance, international stability and world peace. That could be the most consequential development of all in the coming years, with global

effect. It is that larger potential which we should all be seeking to bring about in the period ahead.

Saudi Arabia's close working relationship with the United States really began with California. That has already provided great benefit for us and America and the world.

Let us hope and pray that we are all at the threshold of tremendous new opportunities — with the leadership for that, too, coming from California.

Together, let us help bring stability and well-being on behalf of not ourselves but the world as a whole. Thank you.



EXILES: Palestinians leaving the West Bank

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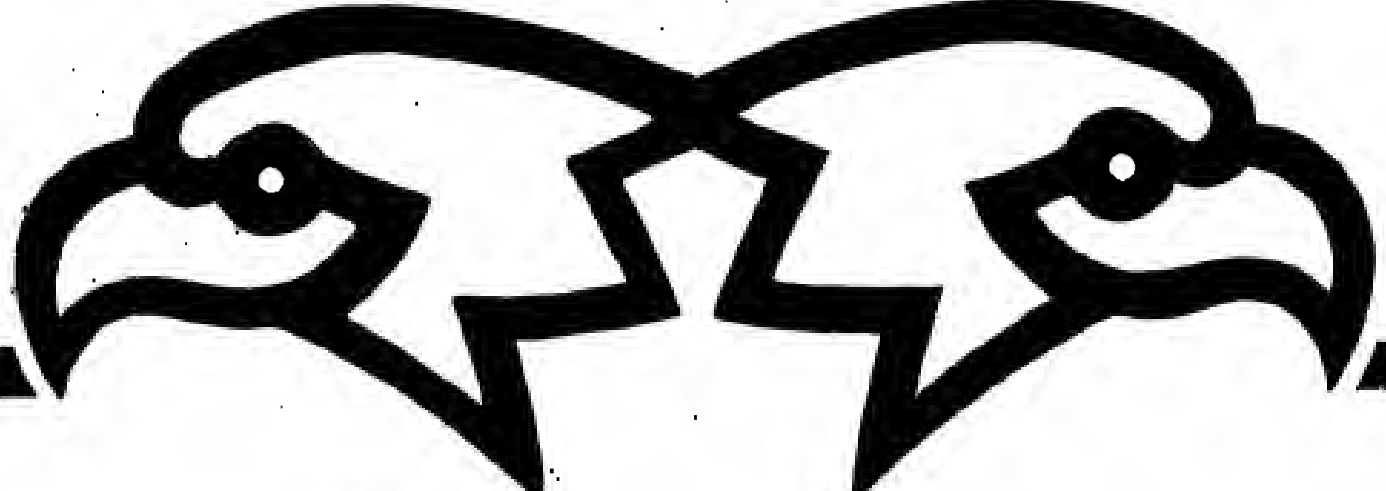
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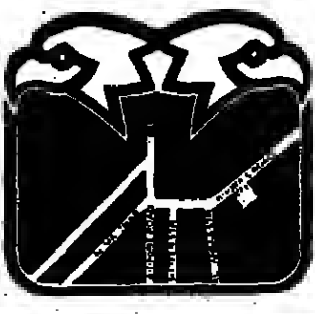
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In West, Japan

Unemployment rises to record 25 million

PARIS, Dec. 23 (R) — Unemployment in Western industrial countries and Japan is likely to rise sharply over the next 18 months from around 23 million now to a record 25.5 million, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) forecast Tuesday. In its twice-yearly economic outlook, the OECD said its 24 member states could expect a weak recovery from the current recession to start in the first six months of next year and to reach an annual growth rate of perhaps three per cent in the first half of 1989.

OECD officials said there was much uncertainty about the chances of even this modest improvement, which would depend on business confidence being maintained and oil prices keeping in line with the prices of manufactured goods from the OECD area.

The outlook said unemployment in the area was rising massively from an average 2.9 per cent of the work force in the 1960s to an expected 7.5 per cent in the first half of 1989.

"Much of the brunt has been, and will probably be, borne by young people, whose

unemployment rate is typically double or triple that of adults as well as by women and by the older age groups," the outlook said. The survey was compiled before the organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) pricing session in Bali, Indonesia, last week, but officials said the outcome made little appreciable difference to OECD expectations.

OECD Chief economist Sylvia Ostry told correspondents the organization's best estimate was that the Bali decisions would mean an oil price increase of 9 to 10 per cent at the start of 1989, and if this was maintained throughout the year oil prices would be 13 per cent higher than in 1988.

The report said the OECD's gross national product (GNP), or output of goods and services, fell at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.75 per cent in the second half of this year.

It predicted that GNP would rise at rates of 1.5 per cent in the first half of 1989, 2.25 per cent in the six months to December next year and three per cent in the first half of 1990.

Jordan reveals 20% increase in expenditure

AMMAN, Jordan, Dec. 23 (Agencies) — Jordan's finance minister Monday announced the country's national budget plan for 1989 revealing a 20.75 per cent increase in expenditures over the previous budget. Finance Minister Saleh Massadeh told the Jordanian National Consultative Council spending for the year 1989 would run at 638.25 million Jordanian dinars (\$2,233 billion). A 20.75 per cent increase over the 1988 figure of 529.23 million dinars (\$1,852 billion).

Projected revenues for 1989 were set at 611.75 million dinars (\$2,141 billion), an increase of 19 per cent over 1988 income. The total deficit was projected at 26 million dinars (\$92.75 million). Massadeh said the deficit would be covered by collecting more revenues and reducing expenditure but did not say how.

Jordan received a total of 107 million dinars (\$374.5 million) in Arab aid and various loans, mostly from oil rich Iraq.

The budget breakdown was given as follows: education, 50 million dinars (\$175 million) — health, 16 million dinars (\$56 million) — development, 140 million dinars (\$490 million). Government subsidies for food and fuel supplies, 42 million dinars (\$147 million) — armed forces, security and defense, 396 million dinars (\$1,386 billion).

Jordan, as a confrontation state with Israel, its national defense allocations the largest single budget expenditure.

Kuwait, Oman raise oil price

KUWAIT, Dec. 23 (R) — Kuwait is increasing the price of its crude oil by about \$3 a barrel from Jan. 1 following last week's 10 per cent rise agreed by OPEC ministers meeting in Bali, a Kuwaiti newspaper said Tuesday. The new price of a barrel of Kuwaiti crude would be either \$34.50 or \$35, compared to \$31.50 at present, the newspaper *Al-Qabas* said, quoting a Kuwaiti official source.

Meanwhile, Oman is raising its oil price for some sales by \$3 a barrel from Jan. 1, the *Middle East Economic Survey (MEES)* said Monday. The Nicosia-based oil industry journal said Oman's price for the contracts involved, accounting for about half its total output just below 300,000 barrels per day, would be \$39.50 a barrel.



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Synthetic fuel could pose health, pollution problems

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (R) — Synthetic fuel production could pose serious health and pollution problems without proper control, the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said.

EPA administrator Douglas Costle said Monday synthetic fuel plants would emit many poisonous and cancer-causing substances, including arsenic, mercury and benzene.

In Japan, retired workers employed for 10 years at a plant which converted coal to natural gas died from lung cancer at 30 times the normal rate, he said. In England, the incidence of lung, bladder and skin cancer among workers exposed to gas made from coal over five to 10 years was at least twice the normal level, he added.

He told a board meeting of the newly created U.S. Synthetic Fuel Corporation, a government body appointed to start the industry, that "if synfuels were not controlled properly they could present potentially very health and environmental problems."

Costle said his agency was preparing pollution control guidelines for plants which will produce oil and gas from coal, oil shale, tar sands and other non-traditional sources.

Costle said that if the public could not be shown that the first generation of synthetic fuel plants were safe, the implications for the entire program would be very serious.

The corporation was created by Congress last summer to encourage production of synthetic fuels through \$88 billion in loan and price guarantees. Synthetic fuels are expected to provide the energy equivalent of two million barrels of oil a day by 1992.

BRIEFS

KHARTOUM, (R) — The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa has agreed to lend the Cape Verde Islands \$2.4 million to support a fisheries project, the bank's headquarters here said. The loan is payable in 15 years with a three-year grace period at four per cent interest.

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Thirteen tons of bananas, the first shipment to be transported overland from Israel to Egypt, crossed the border Monday, Israel radio reported. The goods went through under an agreement between the two countries signed Dec. 15 which opens the border to cargoes as part of the peace treaty between the two countries.

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — An Indian firm has been selected by the government of Iraq to participate with an Iraqi company in a \$120 million water and sewage project near Baghdad, a government spokesman said here Monday. Continental Construction Co., Ltd.'s share of the five-year project at Karkh, 40 kilometers from the Iraqi capital, is \$52.5 million, according to external affairs ministry spokesman J.N. Dixit. He identified the Iraqi firm awarded the remainder of the contract only as a "public sector company."

Oil moving through Syria, Iraq says

TOKYO, Dec. 23 (R) — Iraqi Oil Minister Tayeb Abdul-Karim has said Iraq is still moving oil exports through pipeline across Turkey and Syria, despite recent reports that the flow has been interrupted. But Abdul-Karim declined Monday to tell a news conference how much oil was moving out through the pipelines, the only exits for the resumed Iraqi crude exports because Iraq's main oil terminals are located in the Gulf war zone.

Industry sources in Syria said Sunday the flow through the pipeline that crosses Syria to the Mediterranean stopped soon after pumping resumed at the start of December.

Oil industry sources in Ankara said the flow of oil through the other Iraqi pipeline, across Turkey, was restored to a level of about 600,000 barrels per day (BPD) Friday after five days at reduced volume.

The Damascus sources Sunday rejected reports that the trans-Syria pipeline had been sabotaged but noted that Iraq's northern oil center of Kirkuk, where the pipeline originates, has been repeatedly bombed by Iranian planes.

Abdul-Karim, on a visit to Japan, said before last week's OPEC meeting in Indonesia that Iraqi exports were running at more than one million BPD or about one-third of pre-war levels.

The oil industry is closely monitoring Iraq's process in restoring its exports. Failure to maintain the flow through the pipeline would tighten the world market and might tempt some OPEC exporters to go for bigger price increases Jan. 1 than they might otherwise have done, Western oil analysts said.

OPEC set a \$41-a-barrel price ceiling at the Bali meeting.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Quoted at 6:00 PM, Dec. 23, 1988

Currency	Rate	Rate
Bahraini Dinar	8.87	8.86
Belgian Franc (1,000)	105.00	—
Canadian Dollar	2.79	—
Deutsche Mark (100)	169.00	172.00
Dutch Guilder (100)	156.00	158.25
Egyptian Pound	—	4.45
Emirates Dirham (100)	—	91.00
French Franc (100)	73.00	74.50
Greek Drachma (1,000)	—	75.00
Indian Rupee (100)	—	42.45
Iranian Rial (100)	—	—
Iraqi Dinar	—	9.50
Italian Lira (10,000)	36.00	36.65
Japanese Yen (1,000)	16.10	16.20
Jordanian Dinar	—	10.85
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	12.26
Lebanese Lira (100)	—	91.00
Moroccan Dirham (100)	—	81.50
Pakistani Rupee (100)	—	33.70
Philippine Peso (100)	—	44.50
Pound Sterling	7.83	7.95
Qatari Riyal (100)	—	91.85
Singapore Dollar	—	1.58
Spanish Peso (1,000)	—	42.00
Swiss Franc (100)	187.00	190.00
Syrian Lira (100)	—	77.00
Turkish Lira (1,000)	—	44.00
U.S. Dollar	3.33	3.33
Yemeni Rial (100)	—	73.05
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Saudi Arabian Government Tenders

Authority	Description	No. of Tender	Price \$B.	Closing Date
Municipality of Qatif	Sanitation of the town	—	4000	Jan. 11
Ministry of Agriculture and Water	Construction of two storehouses for fodder in Sakaka and Abha	4/28	200	Dec. 28
Ministry of P.T.T. (Saudi)	Supply of manual saws to cut cables, metals, etc.	330050	100	Jan. 5
Ministry of Education	Construction of an audio library in Riyadh	27/M	15000	Jan. 20
Department of Education, Al-Washm, Shaqraa	Supply of prizes for various sectors of Youth Welfare	36/17	Free	Jan. 6
" " "	Construction of two school buildings with fences (11th lot)	37/17	Free	Jan. 24

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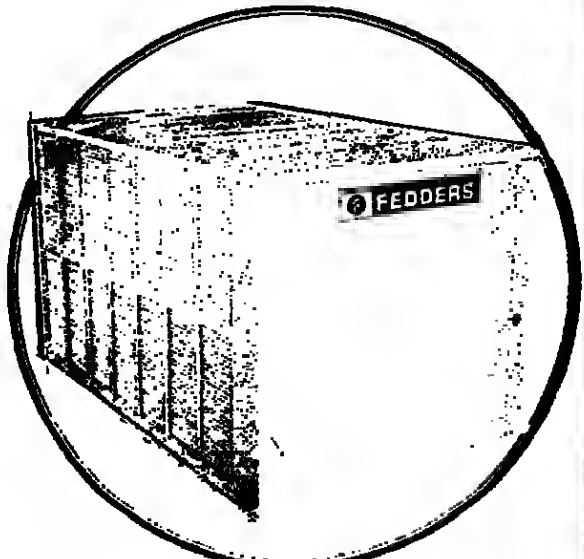
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WORLD PROBITY	6-01-81	Pipes

VESSELS SAILED

AMSTELDIEP	7-12-80
ROBIN HOOD V-3	9-12-80
TSING YI ISLAND V-8/80	8-12-80
SHARP ISLAND V-9/80	14-12-80
PASEWALK V-7/80	16-12-80
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 ♥ KJ643
 ♦ QJ6
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SOUTH
 ♠ A102
 ♥ 7
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 East 1♥ South 2♥ West 2♥ North 3♥
 3♥ 4♥ Pass 5♥

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

Let's say you're in five clubs and West leads a diamond. When you play the ace and East follows low, you can be sure the lead was a singleton, which in turn means you must later lose a diamond trick.

Since you also have a spade and a trump to lose, it looks as though you'll eventually go down one. But, assuming you're a regular reader of this column, you know it's wrong

to concede defeat without looking for a way out, so you start searching for ways and means of doing the opponents out of their due.

After considering the matter at length, you realize it is perfectly possible to make the hand on its merits if, for example, West has the jack of spades and East the king.

Accordingly, you lead the ace of hearts and ruff a heart, the first step in preparing a favorable end position. Then you play a trump to the king, won by East with the ace.

Whatever East returns, you are sure to make the contract with proper play. Let's suppose he returns the diamond queen. If West ruffs, what can he play next? A heart return would permit you to shed a spade from dummy as you trumped, while a low spade return would allow you to follow low from dummy and trap East's king.

If West chooses not to ruff the queen of diamonds, you are still on firm ground. You win with the king, play another round of trumps, and exit with a diamond. East finds himself on lead in a similarly hopeless position and must give up the ghost — even if he is a regular reader of this column!

Your Individual Horoscope

Frances Drake
FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1980

What kind of day will tomorrow be? To find out what the stars say, read the forecast given for your birth sign.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) ♈
 This should be a fun day. The holiday spirit envelopes you with love. Enjoy romance and outings with those for whom you care.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) ♉
 Home is the center of happy activities. Do-it-yourself holiday projects are fulfilling. Putting up the tree and related activities bring joy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) ♊
 Gadding about doing last minute chores has you happily on the go. Short visits have romantic overtones. You're busy on the phone.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) ♋
 Holiday shopping is very much on your mind. You'll want to pick up something special for a family member. A time to give and receive presents.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) ♌
 You're feeling generous and your optimism brings you admiration from others. You're in the mood to celebrate and should do so!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) ♍
 A quiet time for you but not a dull one. Sharing private moments with dear ones at home makes this a merry time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) ♎
 You'll enjoy visiting with friends now. A holiday party should bring happy times. Good fellowship is the theme for today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) ♏
 Career prospects look good. You may want to spend more time doing research on an important project. Confidential meetings are favored.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) ♐
 Pleasant news or visitors from afar! Friends rally around you, and you'll enjoy special holiday times. Travel brings luck!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) ♑
 Business and joint affairs should prosper now! Take advantage of opportunity. Any bonus should be handled wisely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) ♒
 Doing things together with a loved one puts you in a special mood. The holiday spirit enhances existing ties. Romance ranks high.

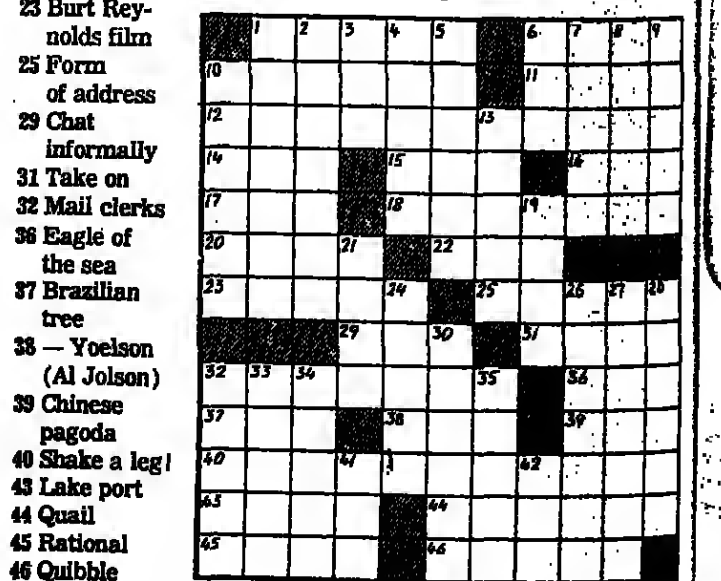
PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) ♓
 Work is fulfilling. An office party should be fun. You're able to put a finishing touch on your holiday plans. Enjoy extra energy.

Crossword

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
 1 European capital
 6 "Little Sir"
 10 Yacht spot
 11 Siamese
 12 Succinctly
 14 Snatch
 15 River, in Spanish
 16 Dec. 24, e.g.
 17 Here, in Nancy
 18 Held out
 20 Frank Nitti's TV nemesis
 22 Contracted
 23 Burt Reynolds film
 25 Form of address
 29 Chat informally
 31 Take on
 32 Mail clerks
 36 Eagle of the sea
 37 Brazilian tree
 38 — Yoelson (Al Jolson)
 39 Chinese pagoda
 40 Shake a leg!
 43 Lake port
 44 Quail
 45 Rational
 46 Quibble

DOWN
 1 Cure for everything
 2 Near East expert
 3 Sen's tenth part
 4 Habituate
 5 Getting more than enough
 6 Anglo-Saxon letter
 7 Root for
 8 Cut down the middle
 9 Lubricated
 10 West Virginia activity
 13 Sinful biblical site
 19 Bryce Canyon site
 21 Classify
 24 Role for Jon Hall
 26 Counting calories
 27 Set up



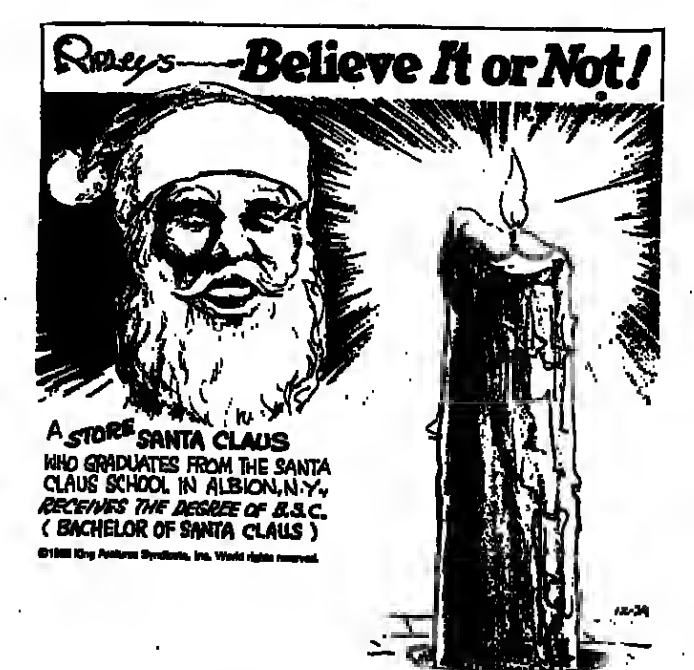
DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE — Here's how to work it:

AXYDLBAKX
 is LONG FELLOW

One letter simply stands for another. In this sample A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTES

SDK DVV ILTIVLP HLVGTSL LDGQ
 TOQLN DP UNTOQLNP, DAX SDK
 OQL ILDGL OQLK VTAE ZTN
 LMLN ZVTHLN DAX NLYEA
 DSTAE OQLS. — CTQA OHLAOK-OQYNZ
 Yesterday's Cryptquote: LIBERTY TO MAKE OUR LAWS DOES NOT GIVE US THE LICENSE TO BREAK THEM.—WILLIAM MC KINLEY



Believe It or Not!

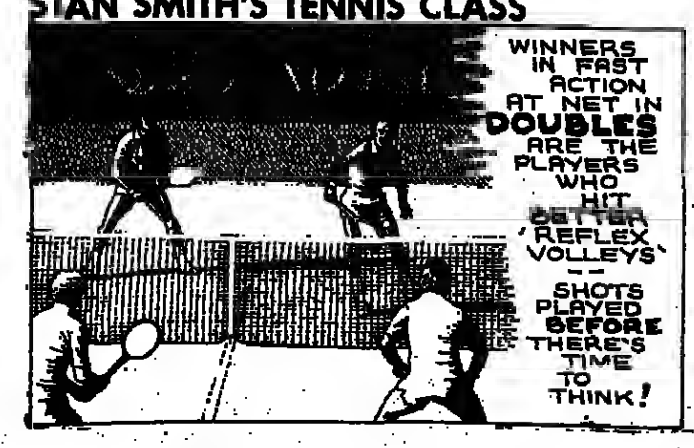
A STORE SANTA CLAUS WHO GRADUATES FROM THE SANTA CLAUS SCHOOL IN ALBANY, N.Y., BECOMES THE JESSE OF J.C.C. (BACHELOR OF SANTA CLAUS)

RADIO PAKISTAN

WEDNESDAY
 Morning: 7:00-7:30 Religious Program; 7:30-8:00 News; 8:00-8:30 Urdu (Devotional Music); 8:30-9:00 News; 9:00-9:30 Folk Music.

Evening: 7:30-8:00 Religious Program; 8:00-8:30 Women's world; 8:30-9:00 Current Affairs; 9:00-9:30 News; 9:30-10:00 From Review; 10:00-10:30 On This Day; 10:30-11:00 This Week in Pakistan; 11:00-11:30 Jinnah.

STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS



arab news CALENDAR

DHAHRAN TV

4:30 Children's Show
5:22 All Star Soccer
Safety Film
6:49 Cartoons
7:14 Little House on the prairie
7:59 Last Best
8:22 Channel 3 feature

Sesame Street No. 1,220
Nolan Forest vs Manchester United
To a Boyztorizer
Photographic Pleasures
FR by waying - FT 2
Not a Progeny
Sliding Session

VOA

P.A.L.
6:00 News Roundup
Reports : Actualities :
Options : Analysis
6:30 Details
News Summary
9:00 Special English :
News Feature, The
Making of a Nation
News Summary
9:30 Music USA :
(Soundbite)
10:00 News Roundup
Reports : Actualities
10:30 Opining : Analyses

News Summary
10:30 VOA Magazine
Announcements : Letter
Cultural : Letter
11:00 Special English : News
11:30 Music U.S. : (Jazz)

VOA WORLD REPORT

Midnight
12:00 News correspondent
reports background
features media
...continues news analysis.

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On SW at 11.855 MHz in 20 meter band
On MW at 1485 KHz in 300 meter band

Evening Transmission
9:00 Opening
9:01 Holy Quran
9:05 Goss of Gulistan
9:10 Light Music
9:15 Jeddah Highlights
9:45 Companion of
the Prophet
10:00 A Viewpoint
10:10 Music
10:15 NEWS
10:25 S.A. - A Daily Chronicle
10:30 Bored Sweet and
Sour
11:00 A Last from
Life's Notebook
11:15 Sound Latin
11:45 On Islam
12:00 Concert Choice
12:45 A Reservoir
with Dignity
01:00 Countdown

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Sawwaf Pharmacy
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PAGE 12

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U.S. charges poor treatment Swiss diplomat visits hostages

TEHRAN, Dec. 23 (Agencies) — A Swiss diplomat Tuesday visited three of the 52 American hostages held in Iran and said their reaction to the apparent stalemate over their release was "wonderful, fantastic... they really took it well."

Flavio Meroni, first secretary at the Swiss Embassy, which is representing U.S. interests in Iran, spent one hour Tuesday morning with former U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires Bruce Laingen, political officer Victor Tomseth and administrator Michael Hotland, held in the Iranian Foreign Ministry for nearly 14 months. Meroni, however, expressed concern over the remaining 49 hostages, whose location is kept secret.

The visit came a day after the U.S. State Department, contradicting Iranian statements that the hostages are being well cared for in sumptuous surroundings, said some of the captives may be in prison while others are suffering from inadequate medical attention.

The statement by department spokesman John Trantner broke a lengthy administration silence about the well-being of the Americans. It followed a comment on Sunday by Iranian Executive Affairs Minister Behzad Nabavi that the hostages are "half and hearty" and "living in beautiful hotels, with all sorts of facilities at their service."

Trantner gave no details on the number of hostages the administration believes require medical treatment or are in prison. Nonetheless, disclosure of the information was additional evidence of the Carter administration's decision to adopt a tougher public posture toward Iran following Iran's request for \$24 billion in financial guarantees as the price for freeing the hostages.

"The government of Iran has never given us a person-by-person account of the hos-

tages or of their condition," Trantner told reporters.

The speaker of the Majlis Monday renewed Iran's threat to put the Americans on trial if the U.S. does not accept the \$24-billion demand for their release.

The parliament leader, Hashemi Rafsanjani declared that Iran will not "back down

from our demands." The new threat of hostage trials came after U.S. officials effectively rejected the latest Iranian terms for ending the confrontation — that the U.S. government deposit some \$24 billion in cash and gold in the Algerian central bank as a guarantee that Iran's financial demands on the United States be met.



THREATEN TRIALS: Key Iranian officials face reporters at a Tehran news conference Monday at which Hajjotollah Rafsanjani, center, said the U.S. hostages faced trial for espionage unless Iran's terms were met. Also shown are President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, left, and Prime Minister Muhammad Ali Rajai.

Iraq reports failure of 3-day Iran counter-offensive

BEIRUT, Dec. 23 (AP) — Iraq blunted a three-day counter-offensive in Iran's western highlands and the Khuzistan oil province Tuesday as Iraqi jets staged the first nighttime air raid in the 93-day-old Gulf war, military communiques reported.

Iraq claimed an Iraqi armored brigade was "crushed" in the snow-blanketed highlands of Sar-E-Pol-E-Zahab and Kermanshah in the foothills of the Zagros Mountains, with rocket-firing helicopter gunships destroying

40 Iraqi forward positions. Iraq claimed 297 Iranian soldiers were killed as Iran's counterattack "collapsed" in the Zagros heights at the northern sector of the 483 km war front and in the rain-drenched marshland of Khuzistan at the front's southernmost sector.

Each side reported helicopter-borne paratroopers raided the other's positions in the western bluffs that command a 161 km highway to the Iraqi capital of Baghdad and both

claimed jet assaults on oil nerve centers.

Iraq's official Pars news agency claimed three Soviet-made Iraqi jets were brought down in a raid late Monday night on Iran's oil refining city of Abadan on the eastern coast of the Shatt Al-Arab waterway. The raid killed 15 people in Abadan, Pars added.

Iraq claimed shooting down four U.S.-made Iranian warplanes during raids on Iraq's northern and southern oilfields in Kirkuk and Rumaila. Iraq claimed bombing the Iraqi Gulf terminal of Fao, 48 km southwest of Abadan at the mouth of Shatt Al-Arab.

Iraq claimed on Monday 130 Iraqi troops were killed and 21 taken prisoner as counterattacking Iranian forces dislodged invading Iraqis from several hills in western Iran. Pars claimed Tuesday 75 more Iraqis were killed in overnight fighting.

Pound higher against dollar; gold prices mixed

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AP) — The dollar fell nearly two cents against the British pound Tuesday, and declined elsewhere in Europe as investors reacted to an apparent halt in the escalation of U.S. interest rates. Gold prices were mixed.

After dropping more than 1 1/2 cents in London Monday, the dollar opened lower Tues-

day and by mid-morning was down nearly another 2 cents. The pound was worth \$2.3715 from \$2.3530 Monday and \$2.3380 last Friday.

London's five bullion houses agreed a recommended morning gold fixing of \$596.50 a troy ounce, down from \$598.50 late Monday. In Zurich gold traded at a median \$594.50 an ounce, up one dollar.

Raps accusers Jiang denies allegations

PEKING, Dec. 23 (AP) — The defiant widow of Chairman Mao Tse-tung lashed out at her accusers in court Tuesday and denied charges that she ordered the persecution on more than 2,600 people in the fields of art and literature, Communist Chinese sources said.

They said Jiang "denied the charges, argued and used tricky arguments" to shift the blame during her hearing before the supreme people's court in Peking. Mao's widow, the reputed ringleader of the so-called "Gang of Four," is on trial for her life on charges stemming from China's Cultural Revolution.

There were no immediate details of her appearance before the court, which is closed to foreign reporters. However, the sources said Jiang did not disrupt the court as she did on Dec. 12 when she was forcibly expelled after interrupting a witness, laughing at a judge, calling her trial "outrageous" and denouncing witnesses against her as "renegades, spies and scoundrels."

The court is continuing its investigation charges against her, focusing on an allegation that she and her "Gang of Four" co-defendants persecuted 211,000 persons during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. Sources said hearings in the trial should conclude Wednesday.

One retired Peking opera star, Ah Jia, testified that he was persecuted by Jiang, who once controlled art and literature in China, the sources said. It was not clear whether Jiang Qing, portrayed as the mastermind of the "Gang of Four," would be allowed to defend herself as she has requested.

Chinese law guarantees defendants the right to a last statement and each of her 100 co-defendant has exercised that right.

She and the others on trial were all leaders of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, when tens of thousands of lives were disrupted for the sake of Communist ideological purity. China's current leadership has submerged theory in favor of practical results in advancing the economy.

Jiang is expected to base her defense on claims she acted with Mao's approval, an argument Chinese sources say she already has tried to raise in previous sessions.

Galley appointed

PARIS, Dec. 23 (R) — French Co-operation Minister Robert Galley was appointed defense minister Monday, replacing Joel Le Theule, who died last week of a heart attack, a presidential spokesman said.

Galley, 59, will retain his co-operation post, which handles French relations with Paris' former African colonies, the spokesman said. Galley, a leading member of the Rassemblement Pour la République (RPR) Gaullist Party, is a nuclear scientist who has held various ministerial posts since 1968, including that of defense in 1973-1974.



Diet of worms seen solution to food crisis

LONDON, Dec. 23 (Special) — Housewives may soon be shopping for prime cuts of worm, shoulder of worm, or even worm-tail soup if scientists at the Rothamsted Research Station, have their way. The lab, one of Britain's government-sponsored agricultural institutions, is currently researching the earthworm as a source of food.

Birds and chickens know well enough that worms are delicious, but only recently have scientists begun to think of them as a source of protein likely to help combat the problems of a hungry world. Dr. Clive Edwards, Head of the project and co-author of the only general book on earthworms since Charles Darwin wrote one in 1881, says, "Although we see the worm as a source of food primarily for fish, poultry and even pets, there is no scientific reason why it should not be fed to man. Indeed, in the more deprived areas of the world I'm convinced worm meal could prove as nutritious as beef steak."

Edwards' program of research has only been under way for a year but already his team has ample evidence to suggest that earthworms can be bred on almost any plant, animal or human waste if suitably treated. They breed very easily, and an interesting by-product is that they convert waste into a soil-like material rich in available nutrients, which can either be spread on agricultural land or sold as compost.

The scientists concede diners are a long way from replacing traditional meals with "Worms-au-Vin" or "Worm a la Surprise," but they say any creature that can convert waste into useful matter and provide a protein-rich source of food containing all the essential amino-acids is worthy of further research.

Good Morning

By Jibad Khazem

A friend who has been living in Abu Dhabi for more than ten years telephoned recently. He had a story to tell.

He said he has been proud to witness the fast pace of development in the area. Proud, also, of the small part that was his to play in the success story. But, he said, it never occurred to him that, one day, he would see himself in the position of a victim of that progress, a position, furthermore which will be on public record for all time.

The man said he was driving on a fine day from Dubai to Abu Dhabi. The road was deserted and he was going at full speed. He enjoys driving, and the conditions were ideal. The only worry was the possibility of stray camels on the road, but the beasts seemed to be taking the day off.

Suddenly, the man said, he heard what sounded very much like police sirens. He looked around. Nothing in sight for miles and miles and miles either way. He began to worry it was all inside his head. He told himself to take it easy. It must be overwork, a symptom of fatigue that would soon go away. Either that or the Martians would soon land.

But it did not go away. And the Martians soon landed. Or what very much looked like Martians. It was all so sudden he did not have time to think. A "thing" landed right in front of him from which descended vague, helmeted shapes.

Soon his mind began to take the scene. It was a police helicopter with sirens blaring. And those were policemen ordering him to stop. "Driving over the speed limit," they were saying. "You thought no one was around, didn't you? Well, friend, here is your ticket."

He said he was too dazed by it all to argue. He took the ticket dumbly and was preparing to move off. But they wouldn't let him. He found himself being helped out of the car and placed between two policemen, who were smiling broadly. The group stood before the helicopter and a photographer materialized. The policemen struck a victorious pose. He kept his his thunderstruck one. Lights flashed and he was escorted back to his car and bidden a good trip.

The photo appeared in the press the next day under the headline: The New Helicopter Patrol Group Grabs its First Offender. "That's how I entered history," he said sadly. "Escorted by two policemen."

Translated from Ashraf Al Awwad

From page one

Soviets

"feels it as its duty to carry out development plans in North Yemen."

Saudi Arabia "has no designs in the North except stability and economic progress," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Fahd also reiterated that Saudi Arabia would maintain its moderate oil policy. "We have shouldered our responsibility internationally according to the directives of King Khalid, because we are greatly concerned about the stability of world economy," the Crown Prince told the weekly session of the council of ministers.

"We also attach great importance in safeguarding the interests of developing countries, which are victimized by the rise in oil prices," Prince Fahd said. "But at the same time, we work on the framework of preserving the kingdom's wealth and interests of its people," he added.

The council of ministers was briefed on a report sent by Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, petroleum and mineral resources minister, on the results of OPEC's ministerial conference in Bali, Indonesia, and the kingdom's moderate role to stabilize oil prices. Crown Prince Fahd said that "the key to

the problem of oil prices is in the hands of consumer states who should conserve" adding that "oil companies should be controlled to stop their competition for more profits on the account of oil producing countries."

Marcos

The major dailies also took note of the presence of about 130,000 Filipino contract workers in Saudi Arabia. "These workers and the Filipino companies that have won valuable contracts for civil works in Saudi Arabia have sent to the Philippines a considerable amount. In turn, Filipino expertise has contributed significantly to the third five-year development program of Saudi Arabia," *The People's Journal* added.

On the recent decision of Saudi Arabia to cut oil supply to the Philippines, *The Times Journal* said this was caused by "a misrepresentation of the Mindanao problem, coupled with other reports on the status of Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia. Again, it is to the credit of the government that after a thorough explanation from the Philippines, the oil supply was resumed."

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